

355

that firearms are either carried in the place of a corpse . or are concealed along with it. Placed in the midst of a preponderating and fully-armed Kurdish population, capable at any moment of being excited to frenzy against their faith, they live in expectation of a massacre, should certain events take place which are regarded as probable within two or three years.

It was not to see the grandeur and picturesqueness of Bitlis that I came here so late in the season, but to visit the American missionaries, especially two ladies. My hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Knapp, have returned from a visit to America to spend their last days in a country which has been their home for thirty years, and have lately been joined by their son, who spent his boyhood in Bitlis, and after graduating in an American university has come back, like so many sons of missionaries, to cast in his lot with a people to whom he is bound by many links of sympathy, bringing his wife with him. The two Misses -----, who are more than half English, and are highly educated and accomplished, met Mr. and Mrs. Knapp long ago in a steamer on the Mediterranean, and decided to return with them to this dangerous and outlandish place, where they have worked among the women and girls for twenty-three years, and are still full of love and hope. The school for girls, in which fifty boarders are received in addition to fifty day pupils, has a *kinder-garten* department attached to it. The parents of all are

expected to contribute in money or in kind,
but their
increasing poverty is telling on their ability
to do so,
and this winter the supply of food
contributed by them
is far short of the mark.

The tastefulness and generosity of these
ladies have
produced as bright and beautiful a
schoolroom as could
be found anywhere, and ivy trained round the
windows,
growing plants, and pictures which are not
daubs give a